

# **Rhode Island Emergency Management Advisory Council**

## **Meeting Notice**

**THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL WILL BE HELD:**

**October 27, 2009**

**10:00 AM**

**Room 313, State House**

**Providence, Rhode Island**

## **AGENDA**

### **Attendance**

**Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth H. Roberts**

**Mayor General Robert Bray**

**RIEMA Director David Smith Dr. Robert Crausman**

**Janice Pothier Pac Vincent Marzullo**

**Alysia Mihalakos Joseph Baker**

**Lt. James Manni Kate McCarthy - Barnett**

**Edward Johnson Paul Stasiuk**

**Jay Corey Kenneth Smith**

**Michael Kern Erin Lambie**

**Peter Popko William Besette**

**Sergio Desousarosa Steve Florio**

**Peter Marinucci Jason Rhodes**

**Larry Grimaldi Carol Kent**

**Alan Seitz Douglas Pesce**

**I. Call to Order—Lt. Governor Elizabeth Roberts**

**Chairwoman Roberts called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.**

**II. Approval of the minutes from September 8, 2009**

**The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.**

**III. Update on H1N1 (Swine Flu) - Rhode Island Department of Health  
Director David R. Gifford, MD, MPH**

**The report was provided by Dr. Robert Crausman, HEALTH Incident Comander for H1N1 Response for Rhode Island. The Rhode Island Department of Health (HEALTH) has developed a randomized, computer generated process to scheduled school-based H1N1 vaccination clinics to occur over a 28-day period starting the first week of November.**

**This schedule is part of HEALTH's infrastructure to provide vaccination to the most students as possible in the shortest amount of time. President Obama's declaration of H1N1 as a national emergency allows the Secretary of Human Services to waive certain federal rules for hospitals, permitting them to set up alternative treatment sites called Sentinels. Rhode Island has set up about 25 of these in anticipatory of increased hospital visits.**

**Numbers: The ER will see three to four times more influenza. The numbers usually run about one in two hundred patients, this week that number increased to two out of one hundred. Nationally the**

number is seven out of one hundred; they project that next week the numbers will increase as part of a second wave that should last between six to eight weeks.

HEALTH prioritized to target highest risk groups (pregnant women and children) as part of their infrastructure as opposed to states like California. The Center for Disease Control projected forty million vaccines but only eleven million were available. Rhode Island children are the biggest concern and the aggressive vaccination will start on November 2nd in about 6 weeks every school age child should be offered the vaccine. Healthcare workers are projected to receive the vaccine by middle December early January.

Gen Bray reiterated the effectiveness of the Presidential declaration in Rhode Island's efforts to prioritize, as we anticipated that a large number of hospitals would exceed their capacity. The declaration allows hospitals to open up extra facilities within their hospital license.

Chairwoman Roberts asked how has HEALTH managed to staff the upcoming clinics? Dr. Crausman informed members that HEALTH had partnered with the RI Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT) and had about 500 volunteers to go to schools and vaccinate children.

The Chairwoman followed up with a question in regards to the shortage of the Seasonal Flu vaccine? Dr. Crausman responded that the shortage was related to a 15 percent increase in the demand for the vaccine this year.

#### **IV. EMAC Update**

**General Bray warned that as we head to the winter season (winter / snow storms) there needs to be more emphasis on personal responsibility. He stated that this week a conference on Homeland Security for Security Advisers was designed to highlight changes in the terrorism arena from a Fusion perspective. Moreover, the RIEMA staff has been recognized nationally by FEMA Deputy Director Timothy Manning regarding the STEP program. The program is receiving national visibility and notoriety. About eighty percent of Rhode Island students are participating and FEMA would like to nationalize this program as part of their public education awareness campaign. Chairwoman Roberts had the opportunity to see the program first hand in North Providence.**

**Director Smith spoke of the great work of the CCRI students who volunteered their time and expertise on the STEP website. Director Smith commended the fruits of the memorandum of understanding by RIEMA and Serv RI and all the efforts that are going on at the national level. Director Smith has been pleased with the media handling of H1N1 as it has been factual and not sensationalized. The director commended the work of Ann Marie Beardsworth HEALTH's PIO.**

#### **V. Domestic Preparedness Subcommittee reports**

**A. Interoperability Communications Committee— Director David Smith, RIEMA Chair**

**Director Smith would like the different directors to name official members for the committee. The technological revamping is on**

track, the work continues with Fire Chiefs and different communities. One of the key activities this month has been updating the State Police Microwave Loop.

Training PO grant funded to get experts on a video which will be distributed to agencies. Key activities include the authorization and implementation of voice communication that will be used to carry video and data.

There is an emerging interest in interoperability as different systems need to ensure that they are capable to communicate with each other in a common operation picture.

EMAC member Steve Florio asked if the video for training purposes provided closed caption. Director Smith responded that we need to consider all special needs including multiple languages. Mr. Florio offered his assistance towards this effort.

**B. Hospital Preparedness Working Group— Alysia Mihalakos, DOH/Dawn Lewis, HARI**

Continuity of Operations (COOP) and situational awareness have been the main foci for this team. There has been an aggressive planning for vaccines. In regards to health care workers, all expectations on hold as everyone waits to hear how the seed stock for the vaccine will grow, which is delaying the availability of vaccine. At this time, we do not seem to have enough vaccine to continue with our original roll out of planned vaccination activities.

Rhode Island has been recognized for several initiatives recently:

1. U.S. Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, has deemed Rhode

**Island's use of school-based clinics staffed by the Medical Reserve Corps as a best practice state for vaccination of school-aged children.**

**2. Tom Lawrence, Team Leader of the RI-1 Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT) and RI Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), will be representing our state in Nashville at the National Disaster Medical System Leadership Conference to discuss the utilization of the Medical Reserve Corps to staff school-based clinics. Their training and competency testing model was deemed a best practice.**

**3. On Sunday, the Associated Press issued a press release about RI's use of Sure Scripts, an electronic prescription initiative. All pharmacies in RI use this system, so we can track antiviral prescriptions by age, zip code, and number of days it takes for a patient to refill a prescription, since antivirals are a limited resource. Tamiflu is only available to those at highest risk.**

**4. The University of Pittsburgh Medical Center conducted an assessment of U.S. hospital preparedness and developed recommendations for evaluating and improving future hospital preparedness efforts. Rhode Island's Hospital Preparedness Planning Committee (HPPC) was recognized for their strong coalition, which discusses implementation of new plans and their decision-making not only with the hospitals, but with the community health centers, nursing homes, and other emergency management partners.**

**5. Yesterday marked the six-month anniversary of the activation of ICS at HEALTH. This has been a tremendous undertaking and its being looked at as a best practice model for public health**

departments nationwide. They continue to train as many employees as possible for redundancy in order to support the response.

#### **C. Haz Mat/Decon Technical Working Group— Steve Preston, Woonsocket FD**

Steve Preston had a scheduling conflict but provided his report for the record. Mr. Preston's current challenge is the recent information from DHS which will not allow sustainment cost for SHSP projects. RIEMA is working with DHS to try to rectify the situation but we may need intervention from the EMAC.

The HazMat/Decon teams continue to meet monthly addressing training requirements, changes to NFPA standards, and regional needs. The group continues to work with the Providence UASI Committee and received the first delivery of portable foam trailers; this capability allows them to respond to flammable liquid fires specifically the ethanol train.

A full-scale exercise utilizing the foam trailers is scheduled for October 29 at Motiva. The group continues to work with the Fire Academy to enhance training programs including work to have our hazardous materials operations level and technician level classes certified by the Pro-Board Fire Service Professional Qualifications System.

HazMat/Decon teams participated in the Connecticut/Rhode Island cross border exercise. The exercise tested the ability of teams to operate in a hazardous materials environment jointly. The exercise was extremely successfully. The workgroup is planning on three

tabletop exercises in 2010 and a full-scale exercise in 2011.

**D. Behavioral Health Disaster Response Network Working Group—Carol Kent, MHRH**

Behavioral Health has agreed to provide staff to the school-based H1N1 vaccination clinics. The group is currently working the Rhode Island Responds to provide orientation to as many BH responders as possible. About sixty to seventy will be ready for the clinics prioritized for the middle school grades and K-6. Ms. Kent has been pleased with the high volunteerism. Since the last report, the Family Assistance Center plan has been completed by the FAC work group and forwarded to RIEMA for processing and signature.

Psychological First Aid training was provided to 253 non-professional staff at ten hospitals sites and forty-five new BH responders. Forty-two current responders received BH disaster preparedness training. In late November early December the group will conduct a training for new BH responders and refresher training for current responders.

Ms. Kent informed members that she will be retiring as of January 15th 2010.

**E. Volunteer/Citizens' Corps Council—Vin Marzullo**

The subcommittee continues with the implementation of the new professional support agreement for Citizen Corps through SERV RI. RI EMA has been meeting with SERV RI to map out initial work products and interviews for the Citizen Corps staff hires. Support



**staff has been brought on-board over the past 2 weeks – orientation has been initiated and some community meetings/outreach has been scheduled.**

**Today at AS220 there will be a presentation by the AmeriCorps\*National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) team(s). Fifteen to twenty community agencies have been invited to participate. The teams are available for 6-8 week long service projects which require the NCCC teams to live in the community during that period since they're deployed from their Perry Pt., MD Campus.**

#### **F. Law Enforcement Working Group— Lt. James Manni, RISP**

**Lt. Manni expressed his concern for continued funding to support training. The subcommittee has been perfecting the WMD Advanced Operators Course which is being used to training the entire WMD Tactical Team from October 26th-30th. The team is comprised of about thirty (30) members. The WMD Swat team can respond to a personal attack and terrorism.**

#### **G. Port Security—Erin Lambie, USCG**

**Planning for the 2010 Full Scale Exercise “Vigilant Hope 2010 – the Area Maritime Security Training and Exercise Program (AMSTEP)/ Preparedness for Response (PREP) Full Scale Exercise” to be held May 3-6, 2010 has begun. This exercise is being conducted in**

conjunction with the RI ANG hosting 12 Civil Support Teams from the region to conduct joint training.

The exercise will require the establishment of a Unified Command organization to conduct MARSEC 2 level maritime security operations with the ability to respond to Transportation Security Incidents in Rhode Island requiring law enforcement, security and response organizations to communicate coordinate and respond to the threat. The exercise will be conducted over 3 days with several exercise venues and will include a one-day full scale exercise and a communications exercise.

The Port Security Grants for FY 2009 ARRA have been awarded with RI receiving over \$750,000 in grant money. The announcement of the FY 2010 Port Security Grants will take place in February or March and outreach meetings will take place to provide information to potential applicants.

The Area Planning Committee is approximately 4/5th completed with the analysis of the “Community Preparedness for Oil Spill Response” which will be shared with the State.

Captain Ray Perry has begun to reach out to the leadership in the State to identify if they will support the 2010 exercise, and if the State entities participate what their goals for the exercise might be. Additionally, one of the challenges we are facing is the establishment of a comprehensive State-wide communications plan that could be tested during this exercise.

**Lastly, the next Port Safety and Security Forum will be held on December 10, 2009. The subcommittee has re-established the Area Maritime Security Sub-Committees for the four designated port areas in Rhode Island.**

#### **H. Special Populations Working Group—Kate McCarthy-Barnett, DOH**

**The Special Populations Workgroup is continuing its work on developing and implementing interventions to ensure an inclusive and integrated emergency preparedness system for Rhode Islanders with special needs.**

**Training: HEALTH and RIEMA collaborated on the development and implementation of the Pandemic Influenza & Special Needs Training on September 15th, 16th, and 17th. Over 700 individuals participated in the training and 355 seasonal flu shots were provided to attendees.**

**Hurricane Shelter Research/Plans: The subcommittee is on target to finalize the plan, developing a training module for the Red Cross Shelter Manager training and reviewing recommendations with local Emergency Management.**

**Special Needs Emergency Registry Outreach: Members of the workgroup continue to assist RIEMA and HEALTH with outreach for the Special Needs Emergency Registry. The Registry linkage with E911 is complete and a public awareness campaign is being**

**developed to announce the expansion. The GIS component of the Registry will be complete within two weeks and emergency notification system will be the next enhancement to the Registry.**

**I. Transportation Security Working Group—Brian Pires, ATAC/TSWG Director Smith reiterated that although the Fusion Center is predominately law enforcement, it should be all hazards. The director also highlighted other states in which the collaboration expands to the private sector and would like to look at those approaches for our state.**

**J. Urban Search and Rescue—Bill McKenna, Cranston FD**

**No report**

**K. Mass Casualty—Chief Robert Church, Portsmouth FD**

**Not report**

**VI. New Business/ Member Comments and/or Suggestion**

**The next EMAC meeting will take place on Tuesday, December 8th time and location TBD.**